

2002 Hall Of Fame Inductee

Orion Samuelson

Orion Samuelson was born and raised on a 200-acre dairy farm near Ontario in Vernon County, Wisconsin. He attended O'Connell Grade School, a one-room eight-grade country school. After graduation in 1947, he became a student at Ontario High School and a four-year member of the FFA.

His first-ever FFA award was a plaque, which still hangs on his wall, dated 1951, Richland Center, Wisconsin, FFA Speech Winner, Section 3. He went on to compete in the State Public Speaking Competition in June of 1951 as one of five state finalists, and the judges placed Orion in fourth.

Since 1957, Orion has attended all but three of the National FFA Conventions. He has covered every convention on both radio and television. He has served as speaker at more than ninety chapter FFA banquets since 1960, and he has served as National Convention Speaker on two separate occasions, as well as addressing the State FFA Conventions in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Texas, Colorado and Wyoming.

He was involved in the organizational meeting of the FFA Alumni Organization in Chicago in 1974 and became a Lifetime Member of the FFA Alumni at that time. At the National Convention in Kansas City that same year, he received the first FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award ever presented. He has also served as a judge for the National FFA Speaking Contest.

Orion is heard on WGN Radio where he has served as Agricultural Services Director since 1960. He and his associate, Max Armstrong, present 28 agricultural reports daily on WGN and the Agri-Voice Network of 50 stations. Orion is also heard daily on more 260 radio stations with his syndicated National Farm Report. Orion has been recognized by numerous groups for his commitment and dedication to agriculture.